

#2



Nathan G  
Ramsay/BRD/USGS/DOI@U  
SGS

03/19/2009 03:31 PM

To Bob Strader/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS

cc

bcc

Subject AWPE #2 (NWHC #22474)

Hi Bob,

Not much of any significance was seen during the necropsy of this pelican, it had adequate fat reserves and a stomach full of fish and crayfish. Routine microbiology of the liver grew normal environmental bacteria, botulism results are preliminarily negative, lead levels are below detectable limits and the cloacal swab was AI Matrix RT-PCR Screen negative. We have West Nile tests and histology pending.

Have a great day,

Nathan G. Ramsay  
Wildlife Disease Technician  
National Wildlife Health Center  
6006 Schroeder Rd.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-270-2435

#2

Bob Strader/R4/FWS/DOI  
03/10/2009 01:32 PM

To nramsay@usgs.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: Pelican

----- Forwarded by Bob Strader/R4/FWS/DOI on 03/10/2009 01:32 PM -----

Bob Strader/R4/FWS/DOI  
03/10/2009 10:34 AM

To aballman@usgs.gov  
cc  
Subject Pelican

Anne,

I am sending you another pelican overnight today, Mar 10, 2009.

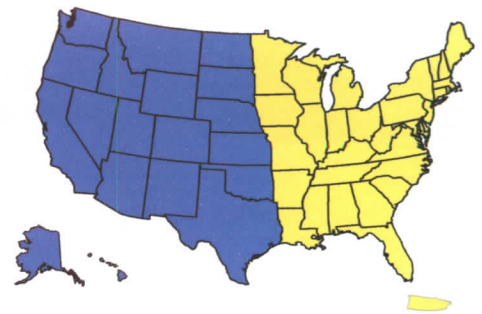
Bob Strader  
Project Leader  
St. Catherine Creek NWR  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
76 Pintail Lane  
Natchez, MS 39120  
(601) 442-6696  
bob\_strader@fws.gov



specimen\_history\_form\_al.SCC.Pelican.03.10.2009.doc



National Wildlife Health Center  
6006 Schroeder Road  
Madison, WI 53711  
Phone: 608.270.2400  
FAX: 608.270.2415



## SPECIMEN HISTORY FORM

For mortality events please e-mail a USGS Field Investigation Team member before shipping

**Western States:** Krysten Schuler [kschuler@usgs.gov](mailto:kschuler@usgs.gov), 608-270-2447

**Eastern States:** Anne Ballmann [aballmann@usgs.gov](mailto:aballmann@usgs.gov), 608-270-2445

For single animal cases, please e-mail Wildlife Disease Technician before shipping

**Nationwide:** Nathan Ramsay [nramsay@usgs.gov](mailto:nramsay@usgs.gov), 608-270-2435

Submitter's name: Bob Strader Affiliation: FWS  
Address: PO Box 217 Telephone: 601/442-6696  
Sibley, MS 39165

E-mail: [bob\\_strader@fws.gov](mailto:bob_strader@fws.gov)

Date collected: Mar 9, 2009

Collector's Name: Bob Strader

Method of animal collection: ☒ Found Dead, ☐ Died in Hand, ☐ Euthanized  
Method of euthanization:

Species: White Pelican

Number Submitted: 1 Condition: ☒ Chilled, ☐ Frozen, ☐ Preserved Tissues

Specific die-off location (refuge unit, pond, address, intersection, park, etc): St. Catherine Creek NWR, Sibley Unit, ditch on west side of Impoundment 4

State: MS County: Adams Nearest City: Sibley

Latitude/longitude (Decimal degree in WGS 84): 31 19' 58.8" N 91 26' 58.1" W Zone:

Disease onset date: (Best estimate) Mar 9, 2009 unless linked to Feb 28, 2009 pelican single event

Disease end date: (best estimate)

Species affected: (The diversity of species affected may provide clues to the disease involved.) single species

Age/sex: (Any pattern noticed that is related to age and sex?) No

Known dead: (Actual number counted) 1 Known sick: 1 other showed signs of not being well

Estimated dead: 1 Estimated sick: 1  
(Consider removal by scavengers or other means, density of vegetation, etc.)

Clinical signs: (Any unusual behavior and physical appearance.)  
Potentially sick bird is isolated and swims into the open impoundment rather than fly away with other pelicans

Population at risk: (Number of animals in the area that could be exposed to the disease.)  
300 pelicans on refuge today, north migration underway; several thousand ducks on refuge, spring shorebird migration underway; wading birds are nesting

Population movement: (Recent changes in number of animals on area and their source or destination, if known.)  
Thousands of White Pelicans have been migrating north up the Mississippi River during the past week. Good numbers are using the refuge for the past month. As many as 323 were counted on our Feb 20 survey, over 300 were in the Sibley Unit on Mar 9, 2009.

Problem area description: (Land use, habitat types, and other distinctive features.)  
System of shallow impoundments (900 acres) dissected by levees and ditches; Homochitto River and Mississippi River within a mile of the incident; area recently flooded by the Mississippi River that is now falling.

Environmental factors: (Record conditions such as storms, precipitation, temperature changes, or other changes that may contribute to stress.)  
Warm weather for the last week and 20 mph south winds; Mississippi River had shallow flooded the area (3-4 feet deep and is

now receeding.

**Comments:** (Additional information/observations of value such as past occurrences of disease in area, photographs and videos are great additions.)

**Avian botulism or cholera about 1999 affected ducks.**



# NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER

6006 Schroeder Road  
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-6223  
608-270-2400 (FAX 608-270-2415)

## DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES CASE REPORT

**CASE:** 22474

Final Report

8/24/2009

**EPIZOO:**

**Legal** **INV#:**

Declassified

**Submitter:**

Bob Strader  
St. Catherine Creek NWR  
76 Pintail Lane  
Natchez, MS 39120

**Date Submitted:** 3/11/2009

**Specimen description/identification/Location:**

ACC	SPECIES	SPECIMEN TYPE	BAND NUMBER	SUBMITTER'S ID	COUNTY	STATE
001	Pelican, American White	CARCASS			ADAMS	MS

**DIAGNOSIS**

Severe bacterial foot infection.

**Comment:**

This adult male American White Pelican was in good body condition. The tissues were moderately autolyzed. This bird had a severe ulcer that covered the entire walking surface of the right foot and was heavily colonized by bacteria. No viruses were isolated from the skin of the foot. Because of autolysis, the botulism tests and bacterial cultures of organs and microscopic examination of some tissues could not be interpreted.

Screening tests for avian influenza viruses were negative and no viruses, including West Nile virus, were isolated from the spleen or kidney.

CAROL U. METEYER DIPL.ACVP

Staff Diagnostic Pathologist

If you have questions regarding this case, contact:

NATHAN G. RAMSAY

Wildlife Disease Technician

Phone: 608-270-2435

E-Mail: nramsay@usgs.gov

**Diagnostic findings may not be used for publication without the pathologist's knowledge and consent.**

**Copies To:**

MIGRATORY BIRD COORDINATOR (R4)

USFWS Atlanta (RO4), 1875 Century Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30345

SAMANTHA GIBBS

USFWS Migratory Bird Management/Arlington VA, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 4107, Arlington, VA 22203-1610





# NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER

6006 Schroeder Road  
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-6223  
608-270-2400 (FAX 608-270-2415)

## DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES CASE REPORT

**CASE:** 22466

Final Report

3/13/2009

**EPIZOO:**

Legal ☐ **INV#:**

Declassified ☐

**Submitter:**

BOB STRADER

St Catherine Creek NWR

76 Pintail Lane

Natchez, MS 39120

**Date Submitted:** 3/3/2009

**Specimen description/identification/Location:**

ACC	SPECIES	SPECIMEN TYPE	BAND NUMBER	SUBMITTER's ID	COUNTY	STATE
001	Pelican, American White	CARCASS			ADAMS	MS

### DIAGNOSIS


Asphyxiation due to rupture of a fish bone through the esophageal wall and into the trachea

### Comment:

This young-of-the-year, male American White Pelican was in fair nutritional condition. The cause of death was asphyxiation, resulting from the rupture of a fish bone through the esophageal wall and into the trachea. A local inflammatory reaction surrounding the bone within the tracheal lumen occluded the lumen to the point that breathing would have been severely impaired. No other abnormalities were seen.

Screening tests for avian influenza (via matrix gene RT-PCR) were negative on this pelican. Results of definitive tests for avian influenza (via virus isolation) are pending, and a supplemental report will be sent to you if, and only if, the results of these tests are positive.

If you have questions regarding this case, contact:

  
VALERIE I. SHEARN-BOCHSLER DVM .DACVP

Staff Diagnostic Pathologist



NATHAN G. RAMSAY

Wildlife Disease Technician

Phone: 608-270-2435

E-Mail: nramsay@usgs.gov

**Diagnostic findings may not be used for publication without the pathologist's knowledge and consent.**

### Copies To:

MIGRATORY BIRD COORDINATOR (R4)

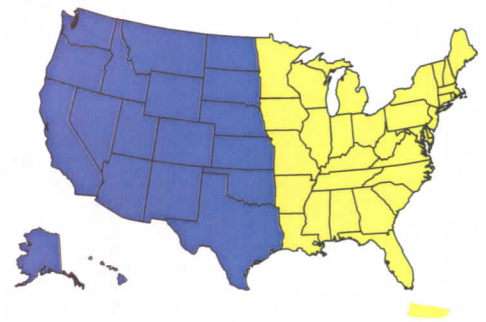
USFWS (RO4), 1875 Century Blvd., ATLANTA, GA 30345

SAMANTHA GIBBS

USFWS-Migratory Bird Management (Arlington VA), 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 4107, Arlington, VA 22203-1610



National Wildlife Health Center  
6006 Schroeder Road  
Madison, WI 53711  
Phone: 608.270.2400  
FAX: 608.270.2415



## SPECIMEN HISTORY FORM

For mortality events please e-mail a USGS Field Investigation Team member before shipping

Western States: Krysten Schuler [kschuler@usgs.gov](mailto:kschuler@usgs.gov), 608-270-2447

Eastern States: Anne Ballmann [aballmann@usgs.gov](mailto:aballmann@usgs.gov), 608-270-2445

For single animal cases, please e-mail Wildlife Disease Technician before shipping

Nationwide: Nathan Ramsay [nramsay@usgs.gov](mailto:nramsay@usgs.gov), 608-270-2435

Submitter's name: Bob Strader Affiliation: FWS  
Address: PO Box 217 Telephone: 601/442-6696  
Sibley, MS 39165

E-mail: [bob\\_strader@fws.gov](mailto:bob_strader@fws.gov)

Date collected: Feb 28, 2009

Collector's Name:

Method of animal collection: ☒ Found Dead, ☐ Died in Hand, ☐ Euthanized

Method of euthanization:

Species: White Pelican

Number Submitted: 1 Condition: ☐ Chilled, ☒ Frozen, ☐ Preserved Tissues

Specific die-off location (refuge unit, pond, address, intersection, park, etc): St. Catherine Creek NWR, spillway on Ring Levee

State: MS County: Adams Nearest City: Sibley

Latitude/longitude (Decimal degree in WGS 84): 31 18.943 N 91 28.398 W Zone:

Disease onset date: (Best estimate) Feb 28, 2009

Disease end date: (best estimate) single event

Species affected: (The diversity of species affected may provide clues to the disease involved.) single species

Age/sex: (Any pattern noticed that is related to age and sex?) No

Known dead: (Actual number counted) 1

Known sick: 0

Estimated dead: 1

Estimated sick: 0

(Consider removal by scavengers or other means, density of vegetation, etc.)

Clinical signs: (Any unusual behavior and physical appearance.)

none

Population at risk: (Number of animals in the area that could be exposed to the disease.)

?

Population movement: (Recent changes in number of animals on area and their source or destination, if known.)

good numbers of White Pelicans have been using the refuge (likely north migration) for the past month. As many as 323 have been counted on our Feb 20 survey.

Problem area description: (Land use, habitat types, and other distinctive features.)

Levee with adjacent borrow pit off the the Homochitto River near the intersection with the Mississippi River.

Environmental factors: (Record conditions such as storms, precipitation, temperature changes, or other changes that may contribute to stress.)

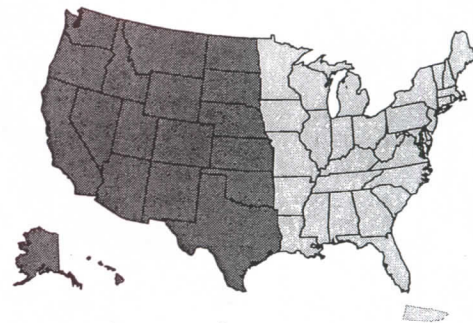
Warm weather prior to Feb 28 was followed by a strong cold front that moved through the area on Friday evening and Saturday. Winds in excess of 20 mph were common and gusts to 35-40 mph.

Comments: (Additional information/observations of value such as past occurrences of disease in area, photographs and videos are great additions.)

Avian botulism or cholera about 1999 affected ducks. See attached photos of the pelican.



National Wildlife Health Center  
6006 Schroeder Road  
Madison, WI 53711  
Phone: 608.270.2400  
FAX: 608.270.2415



## SPECIMEN HISTORY FORM

For mortality events please e-mail a USGS Field Investigation Team member before shipping

Western States: Krysten Schuler [kschuler@usgs.gov](mailto:kschuler@usgs.gov), 608-270-2447

Eastern States: Anne Ballmann [aballmann@usgs.gov](mailto:aballmann@usgs.gov), 608-270-2445

For single animal cases, please e-mail Wildlife Disease Technician before shipping

Nationwide: Nathan Ramsay [nramsay@usgs.gov](mailto:nramsay@usgs.gov), 608-270-2435

Submitter's name:

Affiliation:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Date collected:

Collector's Name:

Method of animal collection: ☐ Found Dead, ☐ Died in Hand, ☐ Euthanized

Method of euthanization:

Species:

Number Submitted:

Condition: ☐ Chilled, ☐ Frozen, ☐ Preserved Tissues

Specific die-off location (refuge unit, pond, address, intersection, park, etc):

State:

County:

Nearest City:

Latitude/longitude (Decimal degree in WGS 84):

Zone:

Disease onset date: (Best estimate)

Disease end date: (best estimate)

Species affected: (The diversity of species affected may provide clues to the disease involved.)

Age/sex: (Any pattern noticed that is related to age and sex?)

Known dead: (Actual number counted)

Known sick:

Estimated dead:

Estimated sick:

(Consider removal by scavengers or other means, density of vegetation, etc.)

Clinical signs: (Any unusual behavior and physical appearance.)

Population at risk: (Number of animals in the area that could be exposed to the disease.)

Population movement: (Recent changes in number of animals on area and their source or destination, if known.)

Problem area description: (Land use, habitat types, and other distinctive features.)

Environmental factors: (Record conditions such as storms, precipitation, temperature changes, or other changes that may contribute to stress.)

Comments: (Additional information/observations of value such as past occurrences of disease in area, photographs and videos are great additions.)



Photo 1

Photo 2







Date Collected: 2/28/09 11:00 a.m.

Location: St. Catherine Creek Nat'l Wildl. Refuge  
Sibley, Adams County, Mississippi

Collector: Mark Cupit, Park Ranger (LE)  
601 597 4075 (c) (office # below)

Contact: Robert Strader, Project leader  
601 442 6696 (o)  
601 597 4076 (c)

Species: White Pelican

Found dead lying on its back. It was  
on a rock spillway along ring levee.  
Will ~~be~~ provide lat. / long w/ email.  
Only 1 bird was found dead: specimen  
was limber.

> near intersection of  
Mississippi River and  
Hmochitto River, about  
90 miles north of Baton  
Rouge, LA, and 15 miles  
south of Natchez, MS.